

**Social Work Professional Advisory Group**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
*10 September 2014*

Leadership Present: CDR Buckingham, Chair  
CDR Scottie Epler, Chair Elect and Policy Chair  
LCDR Christine Nemeti, Secretary  
CDR Todd Cesar, Readiness/Deployment Chair  
CDR Malaysia Gresham, Mentoring Chair  
CDR Kathleen Watkins, Career Development Chair  
LCDR Tricia Booker, Communications Chair  
LCDR Sonjia Howard, Recruitment & Retention Chair  
LT Cara Alexander, Membership Chair  
CDR Cavanaugh, Awards Co-chair

Membership Present:

CAPT Janet Hawkins	LCDR Holly Berilla
CAPT Lou Ann Rector	LCDR Alexia Blyther
CAPT Jay Seligman	LCDR William Bolduc
	LCDR Andrea Cunningham
CDR Teresa Baptiste	LCDR Ramon Font
CDR Carlos Castillo	LCDR Sarah Garrett
CDR Tarsha Cavanaugh	LCDR Lamar Henderson
CDR Scott Conner	LCDR Gina Ligonde
CDR Stacey Evans	LCDR Renee Pleasanton
CDR Marivic Fields	LCDR Dexter Pritchett
CDR Robin Jackson	LCDR Angela Richardson
CDR Kristin Kelly	LCDR John Stanson
CDR Barbara Olaniyan	LCDR Cole Weeks
CDR Tracy Pace	
CDR Melanie Pedersen	LT Tyson Baize
CDR Anthony Perry	LT Israel Garcia
CDR Don Schmidt	LT Nicole Pascua
CDR Januett Smith-George	LT Michelle Sheedy
CDR Dale Thompson	LT Robert VanMeir
	LT Monique Worrell
	LTJG Nicole Vaughn

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## **I. Chair Report, CDR Buckingham**

- A. Please consider submitting nominations for the SWPAG secretary and Chair Elect. Results of the election will be announced at the next SWPAG meeting on 3 December.
- B. Working within the framework of the No Social Worker Left Behind initiative, the answers from the retention questionnaire have been forwarded to RADM Delaney and a meeting will be arranged to share issues facing social workers with the Office of the Surgeon General.
- C. We can expect to see a shift in the corps within the next 5-years regarding promotion.

## **II. Subcommittee Reports**

- A. Career Development (CDR Watkins)
  - i. Continues to focus on the No Social Worker Left Behind initiative.
  - ii. Leveraging leadership support to garner new O-5 billets in the Army.
- B. Mentorship (CDR Gresham)
  - i. The Guidance and Mentoring Tool is located on the website and an article will be published on how to best utilize the tool.
  - ii. Working on additional Meet & Greets across the country; 4 have already taken place this year.
  - iii. AMSUS will have a dedicated block of time for social workers in the uniformed services.
  - iv. Assist mentors in working most effectively with their mentees.
- C. Communications (LCDR Booker)
  - i. The SWPAG facebook page is now operational and listed as USPHS SWPAG or at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292892854222444/>
  - ii. Please route facebook posting submissions through LCDR Booker.
  - iii. Next SWPAG newsletter will be released on 15 September.
- D. Policy (CDR Eppler)
  - i. The proposed changes by the HSPAC of the SWPAG bylaws changes regarding voting membership have been resubmitted to HSPAC.
  - ii. Presentation by CDR Don Schmidt on USPHS leave policy. His talking points are attached.
- E. Awards (CDR Cavanaugh)
  - i. A plan is being put in place to offer additional social work awards in 2015.
- F. Readiness (CDR Todd Cesar)
  - i. Drafting an award submission for all social work officers when there is 100% basic ready compliance.
  - ii. A readiness tip is being included in each SWPAG newsletter.

- iii. PACE program information is on the website.
- iv. A list of needed supplies for various types of deployments will be posted on the website soon.
- v. Working with the Coast Guard to establish a regulation USPHS Physical Training uniform. This is in process and should be online in the upcoming months.

G. Membership (LT Cara Alexander)

H. Recruitment & Retention (LCDR Howard)

- i. Working on a welcome letter for new officers.
- ii. Working with the results of the retention survey.
- iii. Articles are submitted regularly to the SWPAG newsletter.
- iv. Will send out information on protocol for visiting flag officers to appropriate facilities.

III. Presentation on effective wording of the COER and Reviewing Official Statement

IV. Next meeting 3 December 2014 at 1430 EST